

# BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

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## A Notable Anniversary

By George William Brown

UNIVERSAL Bible Sunday, commemorating as it does this year the four hundredth anniversary of the publication of Martin Luther's translation of the Bible, offers Protestantism an opportunity to recognize its indebtedness to the great German reformer's large part in helping to make "the open Bible" a reality.

Among Luther's many noteworthy achievements, certainly his scholarly translation of the Bible stands out as one. It is still largely used by all German-speaking people of whatever faith throughout the world as the popular translation and interpretation of the original, and it will probably continue to be used throughout the future. Because of its significance, it has seemed appropriate to the American Bible Society to designate the four hundredth anniversary of its publication as the theme for Universal Bible Sunday on December 9.

In commenting on Luther's translation, completed in 1534 after more than a dozen years of labor, Dr. Abdel Ross Wentz, professor of church history in the Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg, has written: "It is scarcely possible to overestimate its significance. . . . It is valuable on two counts: its own intrinsic worth, and its pioneer character. . . . It became and has remained one of the great classics of German literature. . . . Its clear, vivid, picturesque style captivated readers and hearers everywhere. . . . Simple without ceasing to be elegant, plain without ceasing to be eloquent, and incisive without approaching the bizarre, Luther's Bible clearly marked a new era both in literature and religion."

Students of literature have not been tardy in enthusiastically praising this notable translation. Goethe, whose influence on German literature probably was only second to that of Luther, regarded it as one of the marvels of all literature, that Luther could so completely master the great variety of style among Bible writers and could so "cast into one mold the poetical, the historical, the hortatory, and the didactic note."

Luther's primary purpose was of course religious. "His chief motive," according to Professor Wentz, "was to make it possible for the people to drink directly from the fresh fountain of spiritual truth. . . . He understood better than

anyone else who has tried it, how to adapt vivid words and phrases to the lofty subject so as to convey the genuine religious tone that characterizes the original writings. His religious intuition enabled him to plumb the depths of the Biblical writers, and his intimacy with human nature enabled him to express the truth with facility and incisiveness. His spir-



HOW ONE CHURCH IS MARKING THE ANNIVERSARY  
The Moreland Lutheran Church Bible Display, Chicago

itual genius united with his great literary skill to reproduce the atmosphere of prophetic and apostolic message, so that the people of his own day were constrained to exclaim: 'We hear them speaking in *our* tongue the mighty works of God.'

The American Bible Society, in sponsoring Universal Bible Sunday, is making appropriate material available to approximately 100,000 pastors in America for their use in anticipating and observing the day; believing that, in the celebration of the Luther anniversary, not only fresh interest in the history of the Bible, but also a new stimulus to its use, will result.



## Pushing a Gate Ajar

By John Ritchie, Secretary, Upper Andes Agency

IT was in 1886 that Messrs. Andrew Milne and Francisco Penzotti, intrepid adventurers for God of the American Bible Society, tried to introduce Scriptures into Ecuador and barely escaped having their stock confiscated and burned. When Penzotti, in 1892, tried again, he was told by an official in charge that, "while Chimborazo exists, this class of books will not enter Ecuador." All this was changed, however, under President Eloi Alfaro when he came into power in 1897. Both the missionary and the Bible were then introduced under government auspices.

The human geography of Ecuador today corresponds with its history during the last one hundred years. Quito is respectably conserva-

odist missionary, directed his course when, some forty years ago, he was invited by President Alfaro to help him remodel the educational life of the republic. Here it was that his life was placed in jeopardy when he assayed to deliver a public lecture on the democracy of the United States. He was beset by a howling mob of incensed fanatics.

At present the Christian and Missionary Alliance has in Cuenca a heroic missionary, who preaches in the market place every Sunday morning, more or less obviously escorted by a police official. Not long ago, in a village on the outskirts of the city, when he gave away a tract, he was set upon by a mob, which stoned and beat and kicked him and left him only when he was supposed to be dead. Until quite recently it has proved all but impossible to hold regular

gospel services in the city, although many of its citizens admire the missionary and sympathize with his purpose.

In April of this year the Agent of the American Bible So-

cety visited Cuenca at the invitation of the missionary in charge, and was privileged to have a numerous audience of professional men and officials, with ladies of their families, attend a series of lectures dealing with the gospel in relation to the social problems and the intimate personal needs of our time. There was no disturbance whatsoever, and he has been invited to return and give another course, probably in the university.

Now it was from Cuenca that Colporteur Teofilo Castro came. He had made a sorry wreck of his youth there before he was arrested by the statement of a preacher in the plaza of Guayaquil, that Christ Jesus is the friend of sinners. He became a colporteur. In his native town, he was known as he had been before the Lord changed him by his Word. It was decided that he go back there, to the scene



BAMBOO HOUSES IN GUAYAQUIL

tive. Guayaquil is as respectably liberal. Cuenca carries on the tradition of Gabriel Garcia Moreno, dictator-president of Ecuador sixty years ago and protagonist of the Roman Catholic Church. Ambato, the birthplace and shrine of Montalbo, is ultraradical.

In Cuenca, the church bells peal out the call to prayer at 4 a. m., when not earlier, with a din which must arouse the most profound sleeper. This city has earned the title of intellectual center of the republic. Until recently it maintained contact with the outer world by a very trying four-day mule journey. But the isolation had its compensations. Books were more read than reviews; the intellectual pursuits of the university marked the rhythm of the life of the city. To Cuenca, therefore, Dr. T. B. Wood, Meth-



THE PLAZA—GUAYAQUIL

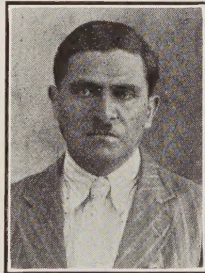


of his early vices and vicissitudes, taking his wife and their little girl with him, and circulate the Scriptures systematically throughout the whole region. This plan was regarded as so dangerous by the church in Guayaquil that, at his departure, the pastor expressed their uncertainty as to whether they would ever see him among them again.

On the Sunday morning following his arrival in Cuenca, he told, in the market place, the story of his own salvation. There was an attentive crowd of listeners. When he quoted the Scripture "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin," a bystander, in his enthusiasm, clapped his hands and shouted "Viva el Evangelio!" which might be interpreted, "Hurrah for the Gospel!" He sold Gospels and Testaments to the crowd.

Finding one of his oldtime companions in the plaza, he sat down with him and told the story of his conversion. People gathered round, interested in the narrative. He read to them the story of the Prodigal Son, and again was able to sell a number of Gospels and Testaments. So he goes about the town, telling his story, reading that of the Samaritan woman, or of the Prodigal Son, and selling his books.

Christ Jesus saves sinners—this is the burden of his message to one and all, in plaza and market; in police and military barracks; in homes, shops, and offices of the town. He went in to offer his books to a medical doctor, who would have none of them. On the way out, he bumped into a man going in, who was delighted to have the opportunity to buy a Bible.

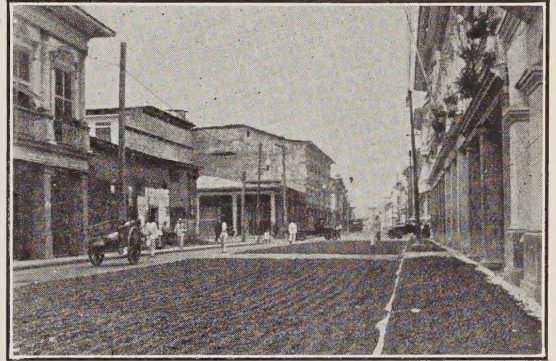


Colporteur Castro

He has not been allowed to go on with his work unmolested. Stones have been thrown, and stick uplifted; he has been threatened with death. But the police, the military, and many of the better sort of citizens appreciate his witness, buy his books, and encourage him in his work.

His efforts have not been confined to the city. In company with Mr. Prentice, the brave missionary referred to above, he set out on a tour of a number of the outlying hamlets and villages. In Nabón, they visited from door to door and sold many Gospels and several Testaments. A militant opponent came at Señor Castro with a stick, but the colporteur evidently knows his Don Quixote in the advice to Sancho Panza: If you don't run away, no one will chase you. He read him the commandment "Thou shalt not kill." This devout fanatic bluntly told him that

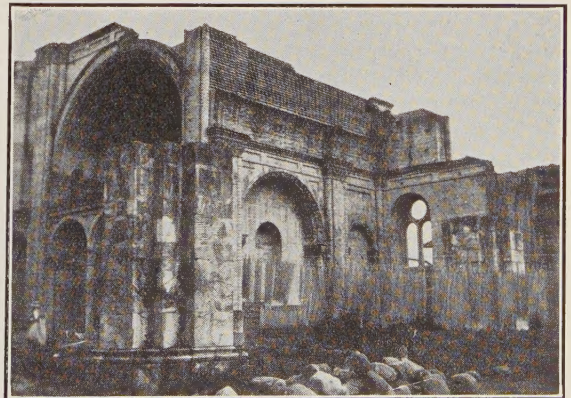
killing was all right in his religion; but he desisted nevertheless. While they were finishing with visiting the village, the bells were rung to



DRYING COCOA BEANS ON THE CITY STREET

call out the people against them, but they got away safely.

They passed through Paquichapa, where they only found three persons; but one of these bought a set of the Gospels. In Oña, in spite of opposition, they sold a number of Gospels and Testaments. Here Sr. Castro met a cousin, who has ruined his own life. To him our colporteur told his story. The cousin, deeply moved and grateful, bought a set of the Gospels. Next day they had good sales in Cartagena and in Sulupali Chico. The following day—Sunday—they expected trouble in Chaguarurco; but they read and sold the Scriptures without hindrance. After reading John 3, 150 Gospels and 20 Testaments were sold. When a man started to make trouble, the local youths put him down with shouts of "Give hay to that donkey." Even when riding out of this place late in the day, they were hailed by persons who bought Gospels and Testaments. Led to return there next morning, Señor Castro sold two Bibles and five Testaments. His comment is,



Lines of toquilla straw for Panama hats drying in the grounds of the cathedral at Cuenca, begun in 1886



"If this is the result after one day, what may I not sell if I come back next year!" Thus they went on through Sulupali Grande, Naranjos, Patapata, Unión, Cataguña, San Antonio, etc., and returned to Cuenca having sold 1,279 Bibles, Testaments, and Gospels.

The territories of Azuay and Cañar, which Señor Castro has been sent to visit, contain a large number of towns, villages, and hamlets which have never had the Holy Scriptures. In view of the prevailing ignorance concerning the

Bible, he has been instructed especially to push the sale of Gospels and Testaments on his first visit to any place, and to plan for a return visit later, when he may the more successfully circulate the whole Bible; but Bibles are being offered and sold all along. The protection and blessing which God has been pleased to accord to this venture would seem to indicate, not only that he is pleased to honor the faith of the workers, but also that his time has come to push open the long-closed door.

## A Great-grandmother Wins a Ladder-climbing Contest

By the Rev. E. K. Higdon, former Secretary, Philippines Agency

**G**REAT-GRANDMOTHERS do not usually take part in ladder-climbing contests. But this one did. It was an unusual contest, and she, a most unusual great-grandmother. Therefore, the story should be told as I heard it at Kidapawan.

The ladder, made of bamboo, had twenty-five rungs, and they were so hard to climb that the best climbers took three months to get to the top. It must have been difficult; for, although a group of fifty were invited to undertake it, only ten really tried. It wasn't a terribly long ladder; for, when it was set up in the Sunday-school room, it reached a point only about five feet from the floor. The reason it was so hard to climb was that each rung stood for one or more passages of Scripture. No one could go up an inch until he had committed some of those verses to memory. Many in that group of fifty couldn't read a word. That made the climbing still harder. That was why only ten undertook to scale the ladder in the first place.

Salimpongo, the great-grandmother, couldn't read. But that didn't faze her. She is an unusual great-grandmother. If she hadn't been, she never would have killed two of her servants in her pagan, unregenerate days—choking them to death with her own hands. Neither would she have eagerly accepted new ideas—such ideas as the astounding one that God gave his Son for great-grandmothers who have choked servants to death! But she heard and believed that amazing news. Four years ago, at the age of sixty-six, she launched out on a new life, based on the belief that God's power could carry her through.

If she had not been an unusual great-grandmother, Salimpongo would have paid no attention to the constabulary lieutenant when he urged the people to plant cotton. But she did pay attention, planted some, and, although she

had never seen any growing, picked it, plucked it into shreds, rolled it into thread between her bare palms, and wove herself a skirt that is the envy of all the other women around. That's the kind of a great-grandmother she is.

Salimpongo tackled that ladder with the same vim she had put into the cultivation of cotton. She talked those passages of Scripture everywhere she went. She recited John 2:15; 4:7; 14:6 and 14; 8:12; she repeated Philippians 4:19; Amos 4:12; Romans 8:28; she went over and over, aloud, Psalm 66:18; Proverbs 23:31; Matthew 5:44—yes, and all the others, until she could say them in her sleep. And, perhaps, you think her family did not also become acquainted with them?

Sunday after Sunday members of that group of ten climbers tried to get to the top of the ladder; but not one of them could make it. Then, one day, the old lady began at the bottom and negotiated every one of those twenty-five rungs without a slip. She had won! Second and third honors went to members of the family, to whom she had incessantly recited those passages for three months.

Here, all wrapped up in one compact package, we see the handicaps of those who do Christian work among the Bogobos and Manobos in that section of the Philippines; we see the need for a simple, quick method of teaching illiterates; we see the necessity of getting parts of the Bible into their dialects so that they will have something to read, when they learn how; and we see the kind of stuff there is in many of those fine folk.

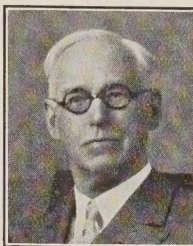
Here also is a bright example of perseverance that will not be thwarted, of a rare zeal in stimulating others that is a challenge, and of age leading youth in a land where youth has the advantage over age. May her tribe increase throughout these emerald islands.



# Work and Workers We Aid

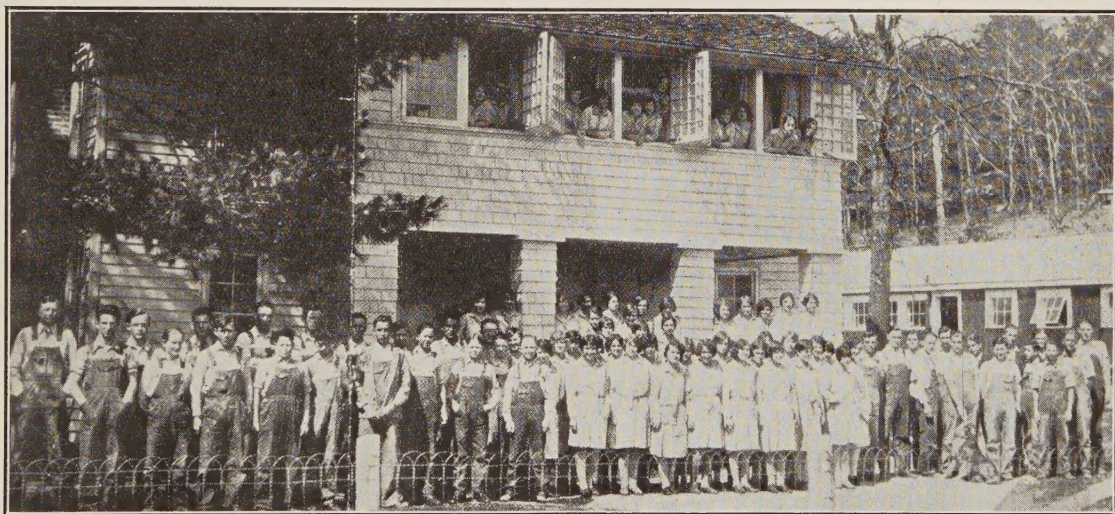
By the Rev. M. B. Porter, Secretary, South Atlantic Agency

FOR years we have had the privilege of furnishing Scriptures to missionary schools. They go out with the graduates, and many of the Bibles have found a place in Bibleless homes. The Nacoochee Institute, in the mountains of western Georgia, is an illustration. Unique in location, 2,000 feet above the sea level, and environed by still loftier mountain ranges, its situation stimulates to achieving effort. The dignity of labor is here taught as well as ordinary textbooks. And still better, the whole instruction centers around the Bible. The atmosphere of the school is permeated with the



Secretary Porter

American Bible Society and the generosity of Christian friends, it has been made possible to bring the Bible, with all its blessings, and food and raiment to the destitute people one finds in these regions. For example, in one case, we found a father, mother, and six children, from four to seventeen, living in a one-room house, with no screens, no chimney—a cooking stove-pipe simply pushed through the window frame. A little girl lay dying in the same room in which the family cooked, ate and slept—the father a drunkard, and the mother on the verge of suicide. Through the aid of my



NACOOCHEE INSTITUTE WHERE YOUTH IS PERMEATED WITH THE INFLUENCE OF THE BIBLE

cultural and spiritual influence of the Book. This institute is only one of scores of similar schools to which this Agency, throughout its life, has had the privilege of furnishing Scriptures; and no service rendered has been more constructive in character and rewarding in results than has this.

To gallant missionary workers the Agency also gladly supplies Bibles, Testaments, and portions of the Scriptures. One such, the Rev. John Early, reports of work in the Blue Ridge Mountains. "We are very happy to record," he writes, "that, through the splendid work of the

friends, the little girl was given a Christian burial, food and clothing were bought for the family, and each inoculated with typhoid vaccine. Through this touch of kindness, hearts were opened to the gospel."

From North Carolina comes an enthusiastic report about the country, the work, and a fellow-worker, from the Rev. R. W. Nading. A part of his story runs: "It is a great cattle and sheep raising section here in the northern part of the state, where the mountains—some rising three to five thousand feet—are covered with blue grass, and marked by beauti-



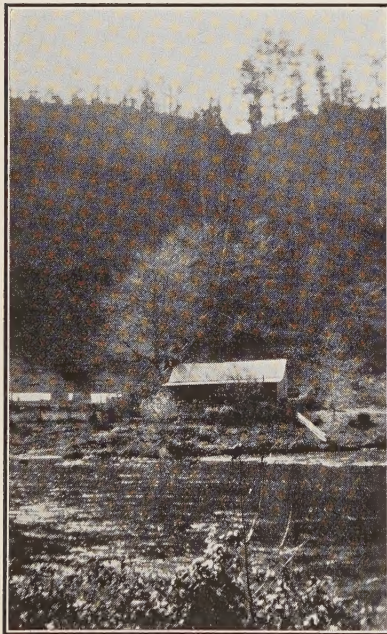
OUT OF SUCH HOMES COME FUTURE CITIZENS



ful rivers and streams. The meadows are wonderful to behold. On the mountain slopes are patches of forest from one to twenty acres. The blue grass reminds one of a luxurious lawn that has been mowed, raked, and ironed.

"Our thanks are extended to the American Bible Society for the reasonable price made to us on their Gospels, and the assistance it gives us in our evangelistic work. At times over 700 Gospels are given at a single meeting. We do not know anything that helps the young people so much. If you give a child the Testament, he may be staggered by the thought of reading it all. If you give him Matthew, and then let him swap with his sister for John, it is not long before both have read all the Gospels. We have never seen finer people in all our lives. One hundred percent Americans. Once, when our

car stopped at the foot of a high mountain while one of the party went on an errand, I saw a very small object about one mile away, but could not tell what it was. Time passed. Suddenly a little head came up to the car and said 'Hello.' I replied, 'G o o d



WHERE NATURE IS BEAUTIFUL

morning, little girl, how old are you?" She held up her hand and counted five fingers. "Aren't you afraid to go over these big wild mountains by yourself?" I asked. And she replied, 'I'm not by myself. Jesus is with me.'

"One of the greatest workers I ever met is the Rev. R. H. Stone, who came here some eleven years ago, and as a result there are several new churches, some of them of stone. His devotion to the people is unlimited, and his influence with them is very great. Take an example: the doctors had given up hope of recovery from illness of an old colored man. Mr. Stone carried him to Duke Hospital at Durham. He was restored to health and is today back at

work. The Bible is Mr. Stone's staff, and its teaching is his preaching."

From two communications received this morning, I send the following excerpts bearing on the value of the Book in the lives of people.

"Last summer you sent me nine Bibles for my class of girls in a mission near here. Since that time the class has grown to fifteen. I have gotten more Bibles like the ones you sent for each one of them as they have come into the class. They are delighted. Before that time I could not seem to get hold of them. Now I have a well-behaved, wide-awake, interested class, largely through the influence of the Bible."

"I have a wonderful story to tell of a young man who had never read any portion of the Bible. Not knowing that, I gave him Matthew. He read it three times, then came asking if I had any more little books like that. I gave him John and then Acts, and some one else, becom-



"NEW CHURCHES—SOME OF THEM STONE"

ing interested, gave him a Testament. He now says he would like to have the Old Testament. I am marking a Bible to give him. He wants to ask me some questions. I pray the Lord will give me wisdom to give the right answers."

## For Contributors to Our Blind Fund

"I am so happy over my Braille Bible books. I stayed up until 1 p.m. the first night they came. I just hugged and kissed them. I know God will reward you fourfold for your benevolence. My best wishes and prayers and gratitude."

October 17, 1934, Baltimore, Md.

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"The Bible seems to me like a river of light flowing through my darkness; and it has kept my hope of accomplishments bright, when things seemed too difficult to overcome."

—Helen Keller.



# From the Land of the White Elephant

By the Rev. R. O. Franklin, Secretary, Siam Agency

## Christian Love in Action

*"As ye would that men should do to you." "If any man take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also." "Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away."*

**N**AI CHAMRAT, our blind colporteur, living at Nakon Pathom, had been reciting these words in the market place, as he sat in his little shed room offering Scripture portions for sale. He often reads to the people, from the portions of the New Testament which he has written with his own hands on the Braille typewriter furnished him by the Bible Society. It seems very wonderful to the people that a blind man should read; and it draws many around him. On this special occasion one of Nakon's poorest lepers heard him. Being attracted by the message, he came closer, that he might hear better and ask questions that were burning in his heart. Somehow, in their long conversation, Chamrat found out that his new-found friend had almost no clothes covering his diseased body, and what he had on were all the clothes he had—merely a much-worn and very dirty loin cloth.

When the day's work was done, Chamrat invited the leper to accompany him to his home, telling him that he had three pairs of trousers, and that he would be glad to divide with him. As they neared his humble cottage, Chamrat's wife saw them and rushed out to forbid the approach of the leper. When she found out the purpose of his coming, she remonstrated again; for said she, "Chamrat cannot spare any of his clothes. He must have one pair of trousers for Sunday when he goes to the Lord's house; and the second pair he must wear when I wash the third pair." Chamrat was of a different mind. He said, "I will give my brother who does not have any trousers my Sunday pair, and I can always have one of the two pairs left clean to wear when I go to the house of the Lord." And so he did.

*"Then shall the King say, I was ahungered, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me. \*\*\* Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."*

## Answered Prayer

Kru Sook, an earnest colporteur, gives us this experience. He had been at work for some days in a village far out on one of the plains of Siam, a place seldom touched by any sort of



Secretary Franklin

Christian teaching or example. He had had no great success during the time he had been there; so he had decided to spend most of the night in prayer about the work in that particular village. About two o'clock in the night some one began knocking on his door and calling out that they wanted medicine for a sick child. Kru Sook answered that he was not a doctor and had no medicine, and so could do nothing for the child. The messenger went away.

But Sook could not sleep. He seemed to hear a voice saying to him, "Go do what you can. Prove your love for them by going to them in this time of sorrow." He arose, dressed hurriedly, and rushed after the messenger. He found the child with very high fever and in great pain. It looked as if there was no hope for the little one at all. Then Kru Sook said to the parents, "I see you have done all for the child that can be done. Will you allow me to pray to the Christians' God, asking him to heal the little one?" With one voice they answered, "Yes."

This was the prayer he prayed, till many in the room were praying it with him, "We have done all we can for this little child, and now for Jesus' sake make her better." In an hour's time the child was better, and before he left the village, three days later, the child was playing on the streets again. God used that midnight prayer to open many hearts and homes for the reception of his Word of truth in that country village—yes, and as we believe, to the salvation of many souls.

## "Our Chief Sorrow"

Another of our helpers writes, "Our chief sorrow is over a little thirteen-year-old girl who became a Christian, as a direct result of preaching and Scripture distribution in the market place. She became leader of one of our children's groups, a strong Christian and an eager young soul. A couple of months ago, a number of her friends were taking a vow for one day in the Buddhist order of nuns, and she was ordered by her father to join with them in taking this vow. She refused. Days and days of fight and argument followed. She was beaten frequently by both her parents. Finally, she could stand the pressure no longer and had her head shaved with the rest. She has not joined her Christian friends in any of their services since, and says she will not till her hair grows again. Too bad. Out of the same group, however, five



young people were baptized two Sundays ago. We have every hope that they will be of great value in the building up of Christian work in their community; for they have been thoroughly trained in the knowledge of the Scriptures."

#### Other Report Clippings

"The most unusual item that comes to my mind just now," said one of our helpers, "is that during the past week one of our colporteurs sold about 250 Scripture portions to Buddhist priests. Many of the priests in our section of the field are speaking favorably of the Christian religion." We might well pray that God may reveal himself to them through the printed page.

"We made two trips into the country this month. One took us to Ampeur Date, near the Cambodian border; while the second was to Mookdaharn on the Mekong River. Of the many, many villages visited, I shall mention but one which was of special interest. We had a hard time getting there, cutting our way through jungle, wading streams, and building temporary bridges. Had we not known that Ban Nambrerk was a very large village, we would have given up and turned back. But God wonderfully rewarded us. After preaching for an hour and teaching and carefully explaining the Word, we offered our Scripture portions for sale. Just about as fast as we could hand them out, we sold more than 500 portions."

"We had given the group who had gathered together an outline message of the gospel," another reports. "The group was 100 percent representative of country village life. They listened well and asked many interesting questions. Then we presented our Scripture portions for sale. When we asked who would like to have a copy, there was one answer after another, 'An bo dai, an bo dai,'—I cannot read, I cannot read. And it was true. We soon discovered that the only man in the group who could read was the village headman. He agreed to read to them if they would buy the books. We sold them 25 Scripture portions and left them with the headman, with the promise that, as often as they would all come together, he would read to them." May the Spirit of God open the Word as it is read to them.

"Three more families," writes another, "took their stand for Christ this week—fifteen persons in all, the direct result of the distribution of God's Word in their homes. Praise the Lord, we can still see the power of that Word."

Our colporteur in the new field of Singora, extreme southern Siam, is meeting with splendid success. He is an old Bangkok Christian College student and has found many old college friends in the city, a number of whom are Christians. He has organized a Sabbath school,

where he gathers all the children of the Christian families on Sunday mornings for Bible teaching; and, after the S. S. lesson, they have a regular church service, with many others in attendance, and our colporteur preaching. A wealthy friend has become so much interested that he has offered the ground for the erection of a church building. Surely, a fine opening for missionary work.

#### A Healed Heart

The beautiful young wife of Nai Kit, our second assistant in the office, passed to her heavenly home on June 28. Maa Sagnaw was a graduate of the Wattana Wittiya Academy, Bangkok, and for some seven years had been head teacher in the "normal practice school," which the Wattana Wittiya school has been conducting for the benefit of the young teachers. She herself was a very fine teacher, a splendid disciplinarian, and a most beautiful Christian character,—loved and respected by every one who knew her. They had just built a new home and only had the joy of living in it together twelve days. For some days after her going Nai Kit almost lost his faith in the goodness of God. They had been so happy during their five years of married life, and, with their new home, they were having a new and beautiful outlook on life. They had no children of their own; so only recently they had adopted a dear little girl.

A dream brought Nai Kit back to his faith. It was repeated several nights in succession, being practically the same every night. He dreamed that his wife and he were getting ready to go on a visit to his father's home. But he was never ready at the appointed hour, while the dear little wife was always ready. So, finally, she said to him, "Nai Kit, why are you not ready to go? You see I am ready and waiting." Just a dream, you say. Yes; but with a tremendous meaning to this broken-hearted young man; and, as he related it to the Agency Secretary, he added, "I will not doubt God any more. I know that Maa Sagnaw was ready to go. That is why God took her. By his grace, I will be ready too, when he calls me to meet her in the heavenly Father's home."

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#### A Choice Gift

A mission treasurer in Belgian Congo wrote:

We have asked our treasurer at Nashville, Mr. Edwin F. Willis, to mail you a check for \$9.84, and we beg to advise that this represents gifts from the Christian natives in the Mutoto section of our mission, and also from the children of our missionaries at Mutoto, a collection taken by them in their Sunday school, for the American Bible Society.



## They Hunger for the Word

By João da Cruz, Colporteur, Brazil Agency

*Dr. H. C. Tucker, Secretary of the Brazil Agency, has passed on this letter from an enthusiastic colporteur.*

**T**HE Bible is truly the holy Word of God, living and efficacious. Here are some true stories of how it draws and helps men and women.

In Rio I knew a black woman, who learned to read solely to have the pleasure of enjoying the holy Word of God. She could read the Bible correctly, but any other book or a newspaper only with difficulty! She made her profession of religion in the Presbyterian Church.

In the town of Rio Claro, state of Rio, about two miles from the station, I found a man who is going shortly to make a profession of religion. He learned to read only that he might be able to read the Word of God. But he had no Bible. Some believers whom he knew had a New Testament, and he had read that fervently. I sold him a Bible; but, as he was at the time without money, I had to credit him. Our brother was very happy and gave glory to God, as did I also.

A neighbor of the foregoing also learned to read in order to read the Bible. Several persons in his family are also learning to read, and can now read the Bible to some extent. I sold

him a Bible on credit, as in the instance mentioned above. This brother is already a professor of religion, as are some members of his family.

At Sertão, in the state of Rio, a man learned to read at the age of seventy-three, in order to read the Bible. He has five sons, three of whom have learned to read for the same reason. These are true miracles of the Bible. I, who was a sacristan, can guarantee that a saint made of wood does not work such miracles.

On the morning of the 22d of October, there entered my house a man engaged as night watchman in a stocking factory. He was thanking God, because he was a completely changed man after having read a copy of the Gospel of St. John, which I had sold him on the train at Rio Douro. He said: "I used to go home to my family only once a week; but now I go every day, and have left off sin." I sold him a New Testament of large print, because he is a night watchman and already of middle age; and I gave him much advice about the reading of the New Testament. So he is to read it all. Glory to God.

• • •

## Seventy-six and Enthusiastically at Work

By Mrs. W. G. McClure, Presbyterian Mission, Siam

*This article carries forward the story of Nang Charoen, a high-born, valiant, new Christian, as briefly told in the June 1932 RECORD (page 106). She is now seventy-six.*

**W**HEN Nang Charoen returned to her little chapel after the revolution was over, to her great joy she found everything just as she left it. To show her appreciation for God's care and love, she had a white wooden cross made, eighteen inches high, to be on her Bible stand where all may see it. She says that Christians should make much of the cross of Christ. She has not taken her long jungle journeys lately for lack of funds, but keeps open house for all who wish to come and hear the gospel story. The neighborhood children can always be depended upon, when others are too busy to come.

In June Colporteur Kru Suk, Miss Lucy Dunlap, a Siamese woman, and I went for a few days to see how she was getting on, and to hold meetings in her little chapel. We had prayed earnestly that the teacher in the local government boys' school, who had been preventing the pupils from buying her books, or listening to

her teaching, would either have a change of heart, or be replaced with a new teacher. What a joy to see the boys of all ages rush in at recess, after school, and again at night. So eager are they to hear about, and see, Bible pictures, and learn the songs. Such happy-hearted, interested, clean young folks! When they rushed in, the old folks stood back. Young and old like Kru Suk. His smile warms the cockles of their hearts, and he is a winning speaker.

The small hand organs played by Miss Dunlap and Nai Kru Suk were great assets, and were highly appreciated by young and old. These wonderful organs have an ordinary keyboard to be played with the right hand and pumped with the left. It is said to be an Indian invention. When the boys first came, their singing sounded more like some college yells I have heard; but by and by they got tamed down and tried to follow the leaders.

To our question they answered, "Yes, we



have a new teacher, who does not object to our coming here now. We can buy books too." Now and again men passing will stop, ask a few questions, buy a few books, and pass on. They must hurry home before dark on account of the many bandits about just now. They must travel in companies of twenty or thirty, so as to protect themselves when passing through the jungle to their villages. These bandits have terrorized the whole countryside. No one is safe. The people take turns watching throughout the night.

Nai Suk, the Bible Society colporteur, promised to hold services at Salegar, the home of Nai La and his wife, who is also baptized now. People very much feared for his safety and were inclined to advise him not to come this time. He said he would go anyway. We all prayed earnestly for him, and God certainly heard our prayers. The bandits came to a village next to Salegar and plundered; but the mounted police were on their track and eight of them were captured before any harm came to the meeting at Salegar.

I do not know who invented the bicycle chair I use. In a few recent months they have appeared in all the small towns and at the seaside resorts. It is an ordinary bicycle with a third wheel and a platform extension, and a wicker chair.

The two standing on my left are Nai La and his wife, whom Nang Charoen has brought to Christ. At my feet sits their little adopted son, almost totally blind with cataracts on both eyes. The little one has also been baptized. They have come about fifteen miles through the jungle to be with us. As it is dry now, they do not need to wade in water to their shoulders as in the rainy season.

Just before our coming, our Biblewoman was quite ill for a few days. She promised the Lord that if he would heal her, she would feed us for nothing when we came. When we arrived, she was well again and went twice a day to market to secure the best food possible. She would not take one stang for our food. We ate around a common rice pot on the floor, with delectable dishes to be served with the rice. Our country friends ate with their fingers, as usual, but we were supplied with spoons and forks. When she asked the blessing, she prayed so long we

feared everything would be cold before we could get to eat. As we left, I said to her that she would need some money for her country visitors' food, as they came in to see her so often. She was willing to take it for the "country visitors," but not for us. It is the custom of Buddhists to make vows to the spirits if they desire anything. When they get their desire, they pay their vow. When Nang Charoen was



MRS. McCLURE'S PARTY. NANG CHAROEN, SECOND AT LEFT

a rich woman, she would make vows and pay them. Now as a Christian she makes her vows to God instead.

She always wants to be in Bangkok for communion Sunday. When told that, for lack of funds to hire a companion, she must not take these long journeys alone, she said, with tears in her eyes, "Why, they have not all heard the gospel yet!" I answered, "Yes; I know that; but you are really too old to take those long journeys. What if you should die?" "Die! I don't care if the tigers eat me. They must all hear the gospel, and there is no one else to tell them."

Later, she arrived at Bangkok, laden with bags of rice, eggs, vegetables, etc., she had taken in exchange for her books when people had no stangs. She has disposed of more than 1,000 Scripture portions with the help of Nai La, her Christian convert.

## Cheering

*State College, Mich.*

"I am enclosing a check for \$5.00 with my prayers for your good work. I found the October number about the most interesting number of your RECORD that I have ever read. I certainly think that the more you can publish actual incidents about your colporteurs, the more people will be interested in the work."



## An Example from China

UNDER the caption "Memorial Members" in the July issue may be found this entry: "Mrs. Ling Siong Hiong, by her husband, Mr. Ling Siong Hiong."

Through Mrs. Elizabeth F. Brewster, of Hinghua, China, we are indebted for some unusual facts about Mrs. Ling. She was the daughter and granddaughter of Chinese ministers. Her husband was also a third generation Christian, both of them attending Christian schools in Foochow. In 1891, they were married and set up a Christian home in Hinghua City, on the site where she died. He developed ability and business technique, and greatly prospered.

Mrs. Ling, in the early days, was a teacher in the Christian schools and always a witness of her radiant faith. Her family increased, until eight children blessed their home. Mrs. Ling, giving up teaching to devote her time to her family, was still always active in the church and its enterprises, going herself to visit and witness in non-Christian homes, until health prevented. Then she herself employed a Bible-woman. Two sons and three daughters were educated in the United States and England; two of the daughters taking out air pilot licenses both in America and England, one now being active with the government air force. All are Christians.

Through all their prosperity, God has not been forgotten or crowded out. In their first modest, semiforeign home a prayer room was consecrated. When an extension was added, a larger room was set apart for prayer. A second addition was necessary as the sons married and grandchildren came to bless their home. Again the best room was the prayer room. Every evening and every morning at nine o'clock, the family prayer bell rang, and all met in the prayer room. "She never missed it except from illness or absence," Mr. Ling says: "I was often taken up with business cares, and this family religion was carried on by my wife."

Mrs. Ling had official responsibility in all lines of church work: President of the Missionary Society and of the Women's Conference, speaker at many meetings, delegate to many conferences of the China-wide church.

In 1932, Mr. and Mrs. Ling contributed 1,000 taels to the repainting of the church. After her death Mr. Ling sent word: "It was the expressed desire of my wife that her personal possessions should be given to the church. Therefore, as the first step, I give \$3,000 to help pay the 'loan debt' on the church. In her lifetime Mrs. Ling had the most sympathy with the poor folks. In view of this we are now

preparing to establish a home for the poor, aged and Christian women of Hinghua, in memory of her. Her gold and diamonds will be sold and the proceeds given to the home as endowment fund. She desired these gifts to be such as to bind the hearts of her children and grandchildren to the Christian church and Way of Life."

"We shall all," adds Mrs. Brewster, "miss her smiling face, her gracious hospitality, and her Christian fellowship."

### Doubly Interesting

IN recently becoming an annuitant, a lady wrote: "Yes, I would like to receive the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD. The number this month was especially interesting to me, as I know personally Mr. Gregory, Miss Stahr, Mr. Bishop, and Mrs. Peck, all of whom were mentioned in it."

"If it were not for the help of the American Bible Society, the missionaries on the field could not carry on their work; and I am speaking from experience, for I am a returned missionary myself."

"You may be interested to hear what a millionaire said about the Bible. On the steamer from Guatemala to Los Angeles there was a man of wealth from South America, whom I had the joy of leading to the Lord. Then I showed him a New Testament in Spanish and said, 'Have you ever read this book?' He replied, 'No.' I answered, 'Your priests won't let you read it, because they know that, if you read what is in it, you would no longer believe what they teach. If I should give this to you, would you read it?' He said, 'Yes, I will read it if you give it to me.' I gave it to him. Three days later, when I was leaving the steamer, he held up the New Testament in his hand and said, 'Señorita, I will always prize this book, and I will read it every day.'"

### Profound Gratitude

From New Mexico has come this word of thanks:

We are using our Keres Matthew in all our services where that language is spoken, and it seems to be much appreciated by the people. It would have warmed your heart, as it did mine, last Sunday night when an old Indian woman, in a most fervent prayer, gave thanks over and over to God, that she had been able to hear "Kutra-Tseni"—Thy Word—in her own tongue. Her own tongue is the only one she understands. I am sure we are repeating here what must be a familiar story to you when a new translation is produced—a profound, almost inexpressible gratitude, especially from the older people.



## BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

EDITORS ..... *The Secretaries*

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 1934

## AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

INSTITUTED 1816

Bible House, Astor Place, New York

THE American Bible Society was instituted in 1816 with the sole object of encouraging wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures without note or comment.

Its program is world-wide and includes the translation of the Scriptures into the languages and common dialects of the people; the publication of the Scriptures in styles suitable and convenient, and at the lowest possible cost; the distribution of the Scriptures throughout the world at cost or free, as a missionary program.

Membership in the Society consists of four classes, each with its special privileges:

1. Annual Members are constituted by an annual subscription of \$5.00.
2. Life Members are constituted by a subscription of \$50.00 at one time.
3. Life Directors are constituted by a subscription of \$150.00 in one or two payments.
4. Memorial Members are constituted by a contribution of \$100.00. The contributor names the one in whose memory the Membership is created. The Bible is distributed through the years in memory of such a person.

Handsome engraved certificates are presented to Life Directors and Life Members.

Full information about the privileges of Membership will be sent on application.

The Society is supported by the gifts of its members and friends and by the contributions of Christian churches with which the Society has official and semiofficial relations.

## OCTOBER MEETING OF THE BOARD

THE sixth stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and nineteenth year was held at the Bible House, on Thursday, October 4, at 3:30 p. m., President Manson in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. J. L. McLaughlin, D.D., Secretary of the Northwestern Agency.

Miss Margaret Wrong, secretary of the International Committee of Christian Literature for Africa, by invitation spoke briefly and interestingly of the important part the Scriptures, supplied by the Bible Societies in many lan-

guages, were taking in the development of the peoples of Africa, giving as an illustration the service rendered among the Bulus through the Scriptures in their tongue supplied by the American Bible Society to the Presbyterian U. S. A. Mission.

There having been no meeting in September, the minutes of the August meeting were presented and approved, as were those of standing committees during September.

The poster for Universal Bible Sunday which emphasizes the 400th anniversary of the completion of the translation of the Bible by Martin Luther was exhibited; and the completion of a new stereopticon lecture, "The Book Goes Forth," was reported.

A distinct increase in circulation in Bibles and Testaments during the second quarter of the year over the corresponding periods of 1933 and 1932 was reported.

An adjustment was made in the appropriation to the Levant Agency, made necessary by the fluctuation of exchange.

Regret was generally expressed over the prospective departure to Chicago, of Mr. Ernest M. Bowman, chairman of the Finance Committee, and the consequent loss of his assistance.

The honor which had come to one of the Vice Presidents of the Society led to the following action:

The Board of Managers learns with interest and pleasure of the election of Commander Evangeline Booth, one of its Vice Presidents, as the General of the Salvation Army. Her elevation to this high office and great responsibility seems well justified by her many years of notable leadership as Commander of the Army in the United States.

May He whom she has so long and fruitfully served continue to give blessing, strength, and guidance in directing and stimulating the world work of the Army which her father and mother so nobly started on its great mission.

The Treasurer reported the following consignments to the Society's Foreign Agencies: During the month of July, Brazil, 2,710 volumes, valued at \$2,238.26; Caribbean, 3,834 volumes, valued at \$1,909.43; Mexico, 4,002 volumes, valued at \$2,636.79; Philippines, 9,032 volumes, valued at \$502.55; Upper Andes, 2,855 volumes, valued at \$1,101.43; total volumes, 22,433; total value, \$8,388.46.

During the month of August, Arabic Levant, 300 volumes, valued at \$139.23; Caribbean, 3,145 volumes, valued at \$616.06; China, 10 volumes, valued at \$3.30; La Plata, 21,516 volumes, valued at \$638.02; Upper Andes, 3,485 volumes, valued at \$1,535.18; total volumes, 28,456; total value, \$2,931.79.

The issues from the Bible House during the month of July were 365,984 volumes, and during the month of August, 189,994 volumes.



# CASH RECEIPTS IN SEPTEMBER 1934

## LEGACIES

Allen, Mary C., Newark, N. J.	\$2,500 00
Brown, Flora R., Philadelphia, Pa.	331 67
Copp, Henry B. and Laura L., Derry, N. H.	50 00
Habliston, Cornelia H., Richmond, Va.	125 00
Orwig, Aaron W., Los Angeles, Calif.	33 35
	<u>\$3,040 02</u>

## ANNUITY GIFTS

Amount received during the month	<u>\$23,402 63</u>
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## AUXILIARY SOCIETIES

Donation Account	Book Account
Bible Society of Maine	\$107 92
Chicago, Ill.	\$46 40
Connecticut	22 00
Massachusetts	100 00
Nashville, Tenn.	13 18
New York, N. Y.	199 17
Racine County, Welsh, Wis.	97 96
St. Louis, Mo.	56 00
	<u>\$498 27</u>
Donation Account	<u>144 36</u>
	<u>\$642 63</u>

## HOME AGENCIES

Colored	\$921 61
Atlantic	604 29
Central	98 72
Eastern	397 92
National Capital	196 89
Northwestern	1,143 33

Pacific	\$819 33
South Atlantic	322 22
Southwestern	86 36
	<u>\$4,590 67</u>

## Included in Home Agencies Receipts

Donations from Auxiliaries:	
Pennsylvania	\$207 50
Gifts from Churches	93 40
Gifts from Individuals	178 06
	<u>\$478 96</u>

## TRUST FUNDS—PERMANENT GENERAL PURPOSE

Ham, Thomas H. and Caroline F.	<u>\$2 25</u>
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## RETURNS FROM SCRIPTURES DONATED

Board of National Missions, Presbyterian Ch., U. S. A.	<u>\$43 01</u>
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## RECAPITULATION

Legacies	\$3,040 02
Annuity Gifts	23,402 63
Auxiliary Societies Donation Account	144 36
Auxiliary Societies Book Account	498 27
Home Agencies	4,590 67
Trust Fund—Permanent General Purpose	2 25
Returns from Scriptures Donated	43 01
	<u>\$31,721 21</u>

## MISCELLANEOUS

Alden Memorial Fund Income	\$9 28
Annuity Gifts Invested—Principal	347 50
Bible House Rentals	4,286 55
BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD	6 00
Blind Fund Invested	139 81
Burr Legacy Income	385 83
Diffusion of Information	13 13
Funds received for Transmission	30 44
Gifts from Churches	2,315 28
Gifts from Individuals	5,175 95
Gifts for Distribution to the Blind:	
From Churches	\$3 00
From Individuals	44 00
	<u>47 00</u>
Huston Legacy Fund Income	1,320 00
Income from Annuity Investments	48,356 90
Income from Available Investments	2,222 94
Income from Special Annuity Investments	235 00
Income from Trust Funds—Legacy Equalization Fund—Income	28,696 23
Manufacturing Credits	2,524 06
Miscellaneous Home Contingent	2,023 87
Ogg, Alex. W., Legacy Fund Income	33 76
Pension Fund Income	153 04
Sales to the Trade	5,475 39
Trust Funds Invested	159 10
Wragg, Rev. and Mrs. J. P., Fund Invested—Principal	500 00
Sundries	41 10
	<u>1 46</u>
	<u>\$104,499 62</u>
Total	<u>\$136,220 83</u>

# CASH STATEMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 1934

## GENERAL CASH STATEMENT

### RECEIPTS

Balance from August 1934	\$82,365 05
From Home Agencies	4,590 67
Gifts from Churches	2,315 28
Gifts from Individuals	5,175 95
Gifts from Auxiliaries	144 36
Gifts for Distribution to Blind	47 00
Returns from Scriptures Donated	43 01
Legacies	3,040 02
Bible House Rentals	4,286 55
Annuity Gifts	23,402 63
Income from Trust Funds	28,696 23
Income from Available Investments	2,222 94
Income from Annuity Investments	48,356 90
Income from Special Annuity Investments	235 00
Alden Memorial Fund Income	9 28
Huston Legacy Fund Income	1,320 00
Burr Legacy Income	385 83
Alex. W. Ogg Legacy Fund Income	153 04
Pension Fund—Income	5,475 39
Legacy Equalization Fund—Income	2,524 06
BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD	6 00
Sales to Auxiliary Bible Societies	498 27
Sales to the Trade	159 10
Blind Fund Invested	139 81
Trust Funds Invested	500 00
Miscellaneous Home, Contingent	33 76
Funds received for Transmission	30 44
Trust Funds—Permanent General Purpose	2 25
Manufacturing Credits	2,023 87
Diffusion of Information	13 13
Annuity Gifts Invested—Principal	347 50
Wragg, Rev. and Mrs. J. P., Fund Invested—Principal	41 10
Sundries	1 46
	<u>\$218,585 88</u>

### DISBURSEMENTS

General Salaries and Expenses	\$3,058 44
Treasurer's Office—Salaries and Expenses	929 98
Appeals	81 49
Diffusion of Information	3,548 21
Annuity Payments and Expenses	27,902 48
BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD	13 89
Church Budget Costs	53 07
Legacy Expenses	4 00
Library	21 58
Pensions Paid	1,051 03
Blind Fund Expenses	90 28
Bible House Expenses	2,814 36
Home Agencies Appropriations	3,538 95
Foreign Agencies Appropriations	17,067 85
Translation and Revision	172 20
Miscellaneous Home Appropriations	26 78
Miscellaneous Foreign Appropriations	590 50
Cash transferred to Publication Department	36,331 26
Legacy Equalization Fund—Expenses	40 58
Trust Funds—Payments to Beneficiaries	400 00
Special Annuity Income Payments	233 00
Annuity Account Invested—Principal	4,050 70
Funds received for Transmission	18 54
Trust Funds Invested—Principal	721 94
Sundries	19 28
Balance to October 1934	115,805 49

## PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT CASH STATEMENT

Balance from August 1934	\$13,549 37
Total Receipts	36,378 84
	<u>\$49,928 21</u>

Total Disbursements	\$40,729 77
Balance to October 1934	9,198 44
	<u>\$49,928 21</u>

Total Cash Balance—Administration and Publication Departments .....\$125,003 93



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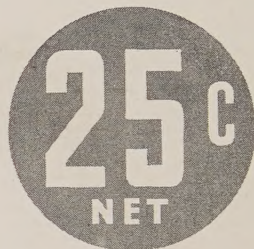
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